

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An apparatus for recording an image by scanning a photosensitive medium with a light beam generated based on an image signal, comprising:
| recording duty ~~eyeleratio~~ detecting means for detecting a recording duty ~~eyeleratio~~ of an image to be recorded on the photosensitive medium based on the image signal; and
light beam intensity modulating means for modulating the intensity of the light beam based on the detected recording duty ratio.
2. (original): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said photosensitive medium is of such a nature that an area irradiated with light remains as an image, and said light beam intensity modulating means comprises means for modulating the intensity of the light beam to a higher level in a highlight area of the image.
3. (original): An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said highlight area comprises a highlight area smaller than 25 % of all gradations of the image recorded on said photosensitive medium.

4. (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said recording duty eyeleratio detecting means comprises a low-pass filter.

5. (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said recording duty eyeleratio detecting means comprises means for detecting a recording duty eyeleratio corresponding to a given area in the image recorded on said photosensitive medium.

6. (original): An apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:
random number applying means for varying the position of the given area in the image with a random number.

7. (original): An apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:
random number applying means for varying the size of the given area in the image with a random number.

8. (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said light beam intensity modulating means comprises random number applying means for applying a random number to the detected recording duty eyeleratio, and means for modulating the intensity of the light beam based on the recording duty eyeleratio to which the random number is applied by said random number applying means.

9. (original): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said light beam comprises a plurality of light beams for simultaneously scanning said photosensitive medium to record the image thereon, and wherein said recording duty ratio detecting means comprises a plurality of recording duty ratio detecting means associated respectively with images recorded on the photosensitive medium based on respective image signals to generate said light beams, and said light beam intensity modulating means comprises a plurality of light beam intensity modulating means associated respectively with recording duty ratios detected by said recording duty ratio detecting means.

10. (original): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said light beam comprises a plurality of light beams for simultaneously scanning said photosensitive medium to record the image thereon, and wherein said recording duty ratio detecting means comprises means for determining an average recording duty ratio of images recorded on the photosensitive medium based on respective image signals to generate said light beams, and said light beam intensity modulating means comprises means for modulating the brightnesses of said light beams based on said average recording duty ratio.

11. (currently amended): An apparatus for recording an image by scanning a photosensitive medium which is fed in an auxiliary scanning direction, with a light beam generated based on an image signal in a main scanning direction substantially perpendicular to said auxiliary scanning direction, comprising:

present recording duty eyeleratio detecting means for detecting a present recording duty eyeleratio of an image to be recorded on the photosensitive medium based on the image signal;

light beam intensity modulating means for modulating the intensity of the light beam based on the detected present recording duty ratio;

preceding recording duty eyeleratio detecting means for detecting a preceding recording duty eyeleratio of the image at a position scanned later than said present recording duty eyeleratio detecting means in the main scanning direction; and

intensity modulation correcting means for comparing the detected preceding recording duty eyeleratio and the detected present recording duty eyeleratio to correct the modulation of the intensity of the light beam with said light beam intensity modulating means.

12. (original): An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said photosensitive medium is of such a nature that an area irradiated with light remains as an image, and said light beam intensity modulating means comprises means for modulating the intensity of the light beam to a higher level in a highlight area which is smaller than 25 % of all gradations of the image.

13. (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said preceding recording duty eyeleratio is of a value corresponding to the highlight area which is smaller than 25 % of all gradations of the image, and said present recording duty eyeleratio is of a value corresponding to an area except the highlight area which is smaller than 25 % of all gradations of the image, and wherein said intensity modulation correcting means comprises means for

correcting the modulation of the intensity of the light beam to cause the intensity of the light beam to return from a given position in the highlight area to a normal intensity.

14. (currently amended): A method of recording an image by scanning a photosensitive medium with a light beam generated based on an image signal, comprising the steps of:

detecting a recording duty ~~eye~~ratio of an image to be recorded on the photosensitive medium based on the image signal; and

modulating the intensity of the light beam based on the detected recording duty ratio.

15. (original): A method according to claim 14, wherein said photosensitive medium is of such a nature that an area irradiated with light remains as an image, and said step of modulating the intensity of the light beam comprises the step of modulating the intensity of the light beam to a higher level in a highlight area which is smaller than 25 % of all gradations of the image.